



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Statewide Initiatives Update

June 2010

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Quality First!

GRANTEE NAMES: United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (Coaching)
Valley of the Sun United Way (Coaching)
Southwest Human Development (Assessment)

STAFF CONTACT NAME: Ena Binns, 602-771-5085, or Sandy Foreman, 602-771-5005

Data	Targeted	Actual	% to Date	% Yr Completed
Budget	\$7,452,788	\$4,377,270	59%	83%
Total Participants Enrolled	646	580	90%	83%
Statewide Participants Enrolled	307	574	89%	83%
Regional Participants Enrolled	339	282	92%	83%

Accomplishments to Date

- Nearly 100% of assessment observations for all enrolled participants have been completed.
- Quality First financial incentives are being ordered and delivered to assist Quality First participants meet their goals of quality improvement.
- Selection campaigns were conducted by FTF to fill the vacant 72 slots for FY2010, including 20 funded by state funds and 52 funded regionally. Coaches will be scheduling Orientation Visits to conclude enrollment during the next 60 days.
- Community feedback continues to drive revisions in the Quality First Rating Scale, and the timeline for the Rating Pilot has been set for August – December 2010.

Barriers and Challenges

- Spanish translations are still needed for basic forms and communications to allow Quality First materials to be available for all enrolled participants.
- Questions have arisen regarding the timeline for expenditures of first and second year incentives, indicating that current policy requires review and revision to meet the goals for quality improvement.
- Staff have determined the need to ask participants on the wait list to submit new applications prior to the 2011 regional expansion, due to considerable changes in program data and closures due to the slow economy.

Plans to Address Barriers

- FTF is in the process of translating basic application and orientation materials into Spanish, following the guidance of legal counsel.
- FTF staff and grantee partners have begun the dialogue about the incentives policy and timelines, and a clarification will be issued by June 14, 2010.
- Internal and external partners have been engaged in dialogue, and resulting communications regarding new applications and the re-application process have been released to current applicants, regional staff, and grantee staff.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA
 GRANTEE NAME: Association for Supportive Child Care
 STAFF CONTACT NAME: Dr. Alicia Smith, 602-771-5008

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$1,500,000	\$591,127.92	39.41%	83%
Total # Scholarships Awarded	2149	450	20.9%	83%
• QF Statewide #	450	183	40.6%	83%
• QF Regional #	475	118	24.8%	83%
• Regional TEACH #	1224	149	1.2%	83%

Accomplishments to Date

- Completed paperwork was received from Tohono O'odham Community College; at least 10 students currently taking coursework in ECE will be applying for the scholarship right away.
- Spring Semester Update:
 Students Enrolled: 299
 Number of Credits Taken: 1583
 Number of Colleges Attended: 15
 Number of Children Impacted: Approximately 2392
- 8 TEACH Scholars (6 in Central Maricopa RPC, 1 in NW Maricopa RPC and 1 in SW Maricopa RPC) were awarded their national CDA credentials, and 1 Scholar in Central Pima received her AA degree from Pima Community College.

Barriers and Challenges

- Regional Coordinators and Managers have overwhelmingly requested that additional development occur on the Hardship Waivers; they wish to be involved in further discussion of the eligibility and other parameters before committing to continuing the Waivers in SFY2011.
- The La Paz Mohave RPC voted on May 25, 2010 to reduce the number of TEACH scholarships for SFY2011 by 50% from 40 to 20. This is a reduction in TEACH regional funding from \$144,400 to \$72,200. Other Councils (in fact the Central Maricopa chair has expressed this recently) may be considering similar reductions as they attempt to identify more realistic and attainable service numbers for next year.

Plans to Address Barriers and Challenges

- FTF will orchestrate dialogue between TEACH, Regional Staff and Policy Staff regarding the Hardship Waivers. Until then, a decision about their continuation is pending.
- As Regional Partnership Councils reassess their priorities, there may be reductions in the number of scholarships that have been initially identified for SFY2011. This was discussed in a meeting on May 20, 2010, with ASCC Executive Director, Susan Wilkins, and TEACH and FTF Regional and Policy staff.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: First Things First Professional REWARD\$
GRANTEE NAME: Valley of the Sun United Way
STAFF CONTACT NAME: Dr. Alicia Smith, 602-771-5008

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$222,000 (State)	0	0%	83% ¹
	\$1,540,000 (Regional)	0	0%	83%
Total # Incentives Awarded	800 by 7/1/10	N/A	N/A	83%

Accomplishments to Date

- 4 RPCs (Central Pima, North Pima, Pinal and San Carlos Apache Tribe) have surpassed their targeted application numbers; The San Carlos Apache Tribe has an eligibility rate of 133%.
- *VSUW will continue to accept applications until 11:59 pm on Monday, May 31 at which time the application system will close. Applications received will continue to be processed through June 15; with the number of eligible FTF Professional REWARD\$ recipients anticipated to grow.*
- *Due to a tremendous outreach effort on the part of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona and Valley of the Sun United Way, the target number for San Carlos Apache has been reached and surpassed.*

Barriers and Challenges

- *Applications from early care and education professional within the Navajo Nation have been low, however VSUW continues to work on outreach and marketing and this number could grow before the application period ends.*

Plans to Address Barriers and Challenges

- *Looking forward to the next release of REWARD\$, VSUW will convene all Regional Coordinators, community colleges and United Ways to process the application and outreach activities and to problem solve strategies for increasing the number of applications and awards*

¹ The grant was approved January 26, 2010; this figure represents 4 of 5 months, or 83% of the funding period.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Child Care Health Consultation
CONTRACTED WITH: Pima County Health Department and 23 County Health Departments or Other Governmental Organizations
STAFF CONTACT NAME: Kelley Murphy, 602-771-5087

Data	Targeted	Actual	% to Date	% Yr Completed
Budget	\$1,034,324.72	\$319,818.99	31%	91%
Total CCHC FTEs	46 Consultants	34.5 Consultants	77%	91%
Total # Signed Contracts with CCHC Grantees	31 Contracts**	26 Contracts	83%	91%

** A separate contract with Pima County Health Department provides for training and technical assistance to 10 contractors, which includes 46 FTEs for 2010 and 52.3 FTEs for 2011.

Accomplishments to Date

- 29.75 Child Care Health Consultants have completed the 60 hour NTI training class.
- 477 Centers and Homes have been assigned a CCHC.
- 398 Centers and Homes have had an initial visit by a CCHC
- All CCHC's are now entering visits into the Carefacts System

Barriers and Challenges

- Challenges for contractors to hire qualified consultants in some geographical areas.
- In some regions, it has been difficult to find providers with the capacity to deliver the service.

Plans to Address Barriers

- Technical assistance provided to contractors in hiring, other contractors assisting in posting of positions
- Continue to work with regional coordinators and other community members to identify qualified candidates
- With assistance of finance, technical assistance in the contract/budgeting process will be provided

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation – *Smart Support*
 GRANTEE NAME: Southwest Human Development
 STAFF CONTACT NAME: Dr. Judy Walruff, 602-771-5010

Data	Targeted	Actual	% Spent to Date	% Yr Completed
Budget	\$290,000 (State) \$1,764,994 (Total including Regions)	\$124,565.65 (Total including regions)	7%**	83%
Enrollment / Service #	7-15 centers/homes per consultant, depending upon service plan for a total of 224 centers/homes	55 Centers		
Consultants	32	23		

****Implementation began December 2009, Expenditures reflect five months since contract awarded.**

Accomplishments to Date.

- As of June 1st consultants are assigned to every region currently funded.
- To date, 23 Mental Health Consultants and 5 supervisors are employed. The grantee, Southwest Human Development (SWHD), continues to review resumes to fill position funded by Regional Partnership Councils.
- A third orientation training for newly hired consultants is scheduled for the first week of June. and will cover the role of the consultant, background of the project and SWHD, process model, protocol score values, evaluation and assessment, and intervention using CSEFFE curriculum.
- A "request for services" application is completed and available on line, and by phone through a toll free number. An outreach brochure is printed and in distribution through the 9 Regions currently funding positions. The application for tuition reimbursement remains to be complete.
- The application for tuition reimbursement is nearing completion and outreach for this program has begun.
- SWHD has secured the email, smartsupport@swhd.org for marketing/outreach purposes.
- The renewal response has been received and will include four additional Regional Partnership Councils that will purchase Mental Health Consultation in 2011.
- A "Live Meeting" was held May 21 for FTF Regional Coordinators and other interested FTF staff during which SWHD explained the mental health consultation model and answered questions.

Barriers and Challenges

- A barrier continues to be the limited supply of practitioners that have the requisite experience and credentials required to serve the birth through five age population.

Plans to Address Barriers

- The tuition reimbursement opportunity to increase the number of practitioners which request education and skills to serve the birth to five population is the primary vehicle for addressing this barrier. Beginning in summer 2010, practitioners will have the opportunity to begin the coursework needed to qualify them to provide mental health consultation in child care settings as well as prepare practitioners to provide clinical services to children birth through age five.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Access to Oral Health
GRANTEE NAME: Arizona Department of Health Services
STAFF CONTACT NAME: Kelley Murphy, 602-771-5087

<i>Data</i>	Targeted	Actual	% to Date	% Yr Completed
Budget	\$50,000	0	0	83%
Pilot Site in Operation	1 Pilot Site in Navajo/Apache Region			
Other # (if applicable)				

Accomplishments to Date

- *Scope of work has been written, and the contract is awaiting final approval and signature from ADHS.*

Barriers and Challenges

- *Time required to get signature on contract.*

Plans to Address Barriers

- *Communicate with ADHS to finalize their signature on the contract as soon as possible.*

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Physician Outreach and Training
GRANTEE NAME: Arizona Academy of Pediatrics
STAFF CONTACT NAME: Kelley Murphy, 602-771-5087

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$269,999	\$88,685	33%	85%
Enrollment / Service #	60 practices enrolled	0 practices enrolled	0%	85%
Other # (if applicable)				

Accomplishments to Date

- *Hired Assistant Director and Administrative Assistant*
- *Hired two coaches*
- *Office space, equipment and supplies have been secured*
- *Application has been made for IRB approval of the Promoting Healthy Development Survey*
- *Outreach has begun; 10 practices have expressed a desire to participate*

Barriers and Challenges

- *Hiring staff has taken longer than anticipated*
- *Lining up appropriate approvals for the survey and data management has been challenging and time consuming- participants cannot officially sign up until this approval is received.*

Plans to Address Barriers

- *Application for IRB approval has been made*
- *Staff are hired and being trained*

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Building Workforce Capacity for Speech Language Pathologists
 GRANTEE NAME: Arizona State University
 STAFF CONTACT NAME: Allison Landy, 602-771-5031

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$275,000	\$275,000	100%***	83%
Enrollment # in Coursework	At least 7 enrolled	11 students enrolled in 09-10 school year		
Other # (if applicable)				

***Contract stipulated an upfront payment rather than a cost reimbursement

Accomplishments to Date

- 15 applications for the 2010-11 school year were submitted, 8 awards were made.
- Renewal packet was completed and submitted.

Barriers and Challenges

- Grantee reports that students are willing to accept one year of tuition for a 2 year service obligation but are reluctant to accept 2 year's worth of tuition because of the additional service obligation.

Plans to Address Barriers

- Grantee has not yet identified ways to mitigate the student concerns.
- FTF is encouraging ASU to work closely with the multi region funding for recruitment and retention being administered through ADHS.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Arizona Parent Kit
 GRANTEE NAME: Consultant – Susan Fry
 STAFF CONTACT NAME: K. Vilay, 602-771-5033

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$884,079.02	\$737,829.64	83.4%	83%
Recruitment #s	<u>Recruitment:</u> 100% (55) of Birthing Centers/Hospitals	<u>Recruitment:</u> 55 Birthing Centers/Hospitals	100%	83%
# Kits Distributed				
Monitoring/TA Provided	<u>Distribution</u> 80% of total births annually <u>Outreach, Monitoring & TA:</u> All sites via phone once monthly. 10% of all sites receive on-site visits monthly	<u>Distribution:</u> Not Currently Tracked <u>Outreach, Monitoring & TA:</u> All sites contacted by phone Six sites were visited in March		

Accomplishments to Date

- 5,916 kits delivered to sites statewide in April: 5,040 English and 876 Spanish.
- An Arizona Parent Kit Advisory Panel meeting will convene on June 4, 2010 to provide members with a progress reports in the areas of re-branding, revisions to kit contents, awareness activities and evaluation plans.
- Staff and the consultant are coordinating with all Arizona libraries to have the kit available for check-out to make it available for families of children who may not have received a kit. The kit will be available in all libraries by September 2010.
- Kits are now available through new facilities in April including Woman Care Midwifery, a group of midwives doing home births in Flagstaff and San Xavier Clinic on the Tohono O'odham Reservation in the Tucson area.

Barriers and Challenges

- Lack of community/ family awareness in some locations about kit availability.
- Inconsistent distribution

Plans to Address Barriers

- In partnership with Piper Trust and policy staff, communications has developed a plan with activities to bring awareness to the kit including a dedicated FTF web page for the kit and a Father's Day promotion.
- Consultant continues to work with sites and provide technical assistance to ensure distribution to all families of newborns. In addition, the consultant continues coordinating efforts and implementing strategies with policy and regional division staff to problem solve with particular sites or regional areas.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Birth to Five Helpline
GRANTEE NAME: Southwest Human Development
STAFF CONTACT NAME: K. Vilay, 602-771-5033

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$90,000	\$68,963.32	77%	83%
Outreach	Public awareness campaign for all Arizona families with children birth through five to ensure that families are aware of this program and call, as needed, from all regions of the state.	For third quarter of FY 2010: 19 outreach events completed with representation/ audiences from all 15 counties 11, 581 Cards distributed 18, 345 Magnets distributed (12,000 for the Arizona Parent Kit)		

Accomplishments to Date

- *For the third quarter of this current fiscal year, the Helpline responded to 953 calls, 237 of which were categorized as Fussy Baby calls. This is an increase of 115 calls over the last reporting period.*
- *From 3/1/09 to 3/31/10, the Birth to Five Helpline responded to over 3500 calls. This is an increase of over 1500 calls from the previous 21 months that the Helpline was in operation.*
- *The marketing and outreach specialist made contact with all 31 regional partnership councils and ensured that Helpline materials were disseminated to their communities. In addition, the Specialist was able to create solid partnerships with DES, WIC, Safeway, and Children's Medical Center in Tucson, the Arizona Multi-housing Association, Cigna, and Banner Good Samaritan to ensure that the Helpline materials were readily available to their clientele. Targeted outreach was also completed to pediatric offices and child care facilities statewide.*
- *Southwest Human Development will continue to make Helpline magnets available for inclusion in the Arizona Parent Kits that are disseminated statewide. The grantee has seen an incredible response to this marketing effort and believes this strategy will continue to have positive results.*
- *During the reporting period of October 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Ninety six percent of families reported they are both satisfied with the accessibility of information and resources as well as their competence and confidence surrounding their ability to support their children's safety, health, and wellness. Four percent of callers reported they were adequately satisfied with the helpline.*

Barriers and Challenges

- *None identified*

Plans to Address Barriers

- *Not Applicable*

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Reach Out and Read Arizona
 GRANTEE NAME: Arizona Academy of Pediatrics
 STAFF CONTACT NAME: K. Vilay, 602-771-5033

<i>Data</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>% to Date</i>	<i>% Yr Completed</i>
Budget	\$492,191	\$315,769	64%	83%
# Regional Coalition FTEs	Establish RORAZ regional coalitions in underserved areas by hiring four new staff.	Open position: Executive Director All other vacancies filled	75%	83%
# RORAZ Practices	Yuma 3 Graham/ Greenlee 3 Northern Arizona 4 Maricopa County 6 Southern Arizona 3	Yuma 2 Graham/Greenlee 0 Northern Arizona 4 Maricopa County 10 Southern Arizona 6		

Accomplishments to Date

- *Many of the expansion target areas (Yuma, Graham/Greenlee, Navajo/Apache) have added new staff this year and these staff members continue to learn their roles and gain experience.*
- *New sites in 2 of the 3 areas the third quarter of the current fiscal year.*
- *A new northern Arizona staff member will start in the 4th quarter.*

Barriers and Challenges

- *Expanding an organization to double its size with the addition of many new staff members at the same time we are increasing program size substantially. New staff need the time to learn their position and become efficient in their work.*
- *Impact of the economy and the ability to adequately recruit funding to support ongoing program work while planning for and adding new programs that will require financial support in the future.*

Plans to Address Barriers

- *The challenge around the expansion issue is time limiting and should be less of an issue in year 2 of the expansion plan.*
- *Diversification of funding strategies is key to the program's long-term success. RORAZ held its first annual fundraising event as one such funding strategy to address this issue. Additional plans and partnerships have been discussed and implemented as well.*

STATEWIDE STRATEGY: Kith and Kin / Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care
GRANTEE NAME: Association for Supportive Child Care
STAFF CONTACT NAME: Dr. Alicia Smith, 602-771-5008

Data	Targeted	Actual	% to Date	% Yr Completed
Budget	\$616,917	\$331,262.80	53.7%	83%
# FFN Providers	75 Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Providers	103 Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Providers	137%	83%

Accomplishments to Date

- *The Kith and Kin Health and Safety Conference was held on Saturday May 22, 2010. Plans are being finalized for the June 5th conference. All registered kith and kin participants are eligible to attend this free, all-day conference.*
- *This project continues to receive a warm welcome in the Yuma and Coconino Counties and to develop collaborations with provider agencies and other partners in these counties.*
- *For 2010-2011, the Arizona Kith and Kin Project will deliver traditional model training-support groups as the primary delivery method with an option of home visits for kith and kin providers who are not in proximity to any of the established training locations or that are more comfortable with the one-on-one in home delivery method.*
- *The pilot year was a tremendous learning opportunity for the Arizona Kith and Kin Project. After more than 10 years of working with family, friend and neighbor care providers in Maricopa County and more than a year of working with this population in Coconino and Yuma County, the program has found that regardless of where kith and kin providers are geographically located in Arizona, most of them appear to have one thing in common....a need for support and to be around others. The proposed change indicated above enables the program to more adequately respond to the needs of participants and the community based on the experience in the pilot implementation year.*

Barriers and Challenges

- *Based on the Arizona Kith and Kin Project's experience in Yuma and Coconino Counties, the home visiting model may not be as viable as was assumed. The percentage of family, friend and neighbor care providers participating in group trainings vs. home visits clearly demonstrates a preference for coming together to learn as a group. However, for some communities where the population is smaller and much more rural, their ability to travel is limited and there are a variety of languages spoken, the home visiting model is more effective.*

Plans to Address Barriers

- *Although the program is still collecting data, it is believed that for some communities, offering both delivery methods is the most effective way of serving this population.*
- *The evaluation plan does not include formal focus groups with participants or key stakeholders regarding the home visiting model. However, the program will be collecting data from participants currently receiving services through the home visiting and traditional model training-support groups regarding their participation in the program, their preference for the group format vs. home visits and related information, their perspective on the home visiting model and related information.*



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Grants Received		
Grant Title/Number	Description	Status
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS), \$142,446	First Things First was awarded this grant in November 2009. It continues and supports FTF system building efforts and includes specific funding support for the children's budget project, interagency collaboration with the Department of Health Services, collaboration with the Intertribal Council and training and technical assistance to Regional Partnership Councils related to coordination and collaboration.	Late May, all grantee's requested to reduce 2011 budget to \$132,000. Revised budget submitted 5-28-10. 2011 Notice of Grant Award expected in early June.
Zero To Three, Technical Assistance on Including and expanding Early Head Start in Early Childhood System	Technical assistance in expanding and integrating Early Head Start as part of the early childhood systems so that more infants and toddlers receive high-quality services.	Arizona was selected for a second round of TA pending additional funding to Zero to Three. No further information at this report date.
Grant Opportunities and Federal Legislation Pending Action		
HB 3221, Title IV	Early Learning Challenge Fund includes provisions that will expand quality early education opportunities in the states to ensure that the next generation of children enters kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed in school.	This legislation was passed with the Early Learning Challenge Fund provisions excluded. Advocacy continues to have these provisions enacted in other federal legislation.
2007 Head Start Reauthorization, State Advisory Council grants	One time funding included with the 2007 reauthorization of Head Start to support and further early childhood system building in states. Arizona is eligible for \$2.3 million which much be matched with 70 percent state funds. Applications may be submitted up to August 1, 2010.	Grant development is in process. The Board received an overview of the grant requirements, process and specific activities to be funded. Submission will be June, 2009.
Race To The Top	<p>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides \$4.3 billion for Race To The Top competitive grants. This federal grant program is designed to encourage and reward implementation of significant education reforms across four specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards and Assessments • Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems/Use • Great Teachers, Great Leaders 	Arizona will resubmit its RTTT application due June 1, 2010. FTF provided content for the grant narrative on the four core areas required in the RTTT application and also

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Struggling Schools 	provided a letter of support signed by Director Allvin.
Education Begins At Home Act of 2009, S. 244, & HR. 2205	This series of bills support early childhood home visitation and public information and educational campaigns directed to families with children under five years of age.	Not currently moving forward.
H.R. 3590: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Formerly America's Healthy Futures Act of 2009	<p>The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act establishes a home visiting grant program for states administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as a new section of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant program. Provides \$1.5 billion over 5 years for maternal, infant and early childhood home visitation programs. Grantees are required to use an evidence-based program model with a benchmark component that measures: improvement in maternal and child health, childhood injury prevention, school readiness and achievement, crime or domestic violence, family economic self-sufficiency, and coordination with community resources and supports.</p> <p>Funding Breakdown: \$1.5 billion* over 5 years \$100M for FY2010 \$250M for FY2011 \$350M for FY2012 \$400M for FY2013 \$400M for FY2014 <i>*State and Federal Reservations Apply</i></p> <p>2. Requires states to complete a needs assessment to identify communities that have few quality home visitation programs and are at risk for poor maternal and child health as a pre-condition for receiving the home visiting funds.</p>	<p>Arizona has a jump start on an application from these funds due to the Statewide Home Visiting Task Force plan facilitated by FTF. The plan is now final and ready for distribution. ADHS as the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant agency for Arizona has started to work on the needs assessment that is stipulated in the act and will utilize the information already gathered in the state plan document. Specific guidance and requirement have not yet been released.</p>
HR 3047, Balancing Act of 2009,	<p>Legislation would make available funding to support a range of family support activities in states. Referred to the following committees:</p> <p>House Administration Committee, House Armed Services Committee, House Education and Labor Committee, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, House Ways and Means Committee.</p>	Not currently scheduled in any committee for hearing.

